

Heber Creeper Needs Community Support

Heber City Mayor Scott Wright reported to the city council last Thursday that Governor Norm Bangert is in favor of State participation in reviving the Heber Creeper railroad operation, but only if there also is non-partisan support in the Legislature.

Wright presented the pros and cons of three alternatives and the costs for restarting the train during a meeting with the governor the previous Wednesday afternoon.

"I felt good about the governor's attitude," he told the council. "The governor realizes that the Heber Creeper is important not only to the Heber Valley but to the State of Utah. But he's basically put the burden on the local people, the people that want to see the train run and, if they think it's important enough to fight for it, it will hap-

pen. If that doesn't happen, it appears to me the Heber Creeper will be lost," he told the council.

According to a written presentation Wright prepared for the governor, it will cost about \$1,064,027 to restart the railroad operation and run it one year, including land, construction, acquiring and rehabilitating rolling stock, labor and benefits for one year, and an annual \$11,450 lease payment to the State for the right-of-way.

Although the city probably could get a low interest Community Impact Board (C.I.B.) loan or bond for the startup money, the mayor and council have doubts about committing the citizens to that responsibility in case the operation didn't produce enough revenue to repay the money. Wright said it would cost Heber City citizens an

average \$60 per year if the operation should be a total failure. He said if the entire county were to share the responsibility, it would cost the average taxpayer only about \$23 per year to make the payments on a \$1.5 million loan. But the council expressed concern about the county commission's apparently waning support for the project.

It also may be possible for the city to qualify for a grant to get the train started. But their first choice would be to get the Legislature to appropriate the funds and even have the State take over the operation.

Wright said he planned to discuss the train with the county's State Legislators this week, and try to enlist their support. He said he thought they all would support the

might be ced monuments to that kind of cooperation by a few determined individuals working together to turn a good idea into a solid accomplishment. A lot of people talked about each of the projects and thought "somebody" ought to do something about them. Finally a few "somebodies" decided if the jobs were going to get done, they would have to be the ones to do it. Two of the projects are completed and we expect the third to be finished by Spring.

For a decade that we know of, people in the Heber Valley talked about how we needed a visitors center to promote what has become our main industry: tourism. We all talked about where to put it and ways of financing it, and how much it would cost, which seemed like more than anybody around here could get. But a few determined Chamber of Commerce people worked together, donated more time than any of them could spare and talked others into doing the same, overcoming each obstacle as they went along and never giving up, for several years, until today we have a beautiful Visitors Center and Heritage Hall standing at the northern entrance to our valley.

Last week we featured a picture of the new Heber City clock on our front page, along with the little committee of three who decided if the city was going to get a clock, they were going to have to be the "somebodies" that put it up. We all talked about how the town needed a clock on Main Street for several years after the one on the First Security Bank building was removed. We all wished "somebody" would put up another one and we all thought it should go in front of the municipal building. But only three people meant it enough to do something about it and they spent a year gathering the more

cost in money and time to put up the clock, or themselves. But one determined a few other determined a project and together they nate a little here and there thing accomplished that th

That's really how things this country. We've become "they" who ought to solve ernment agency that we s maybe we ought to be the Private organizations like citizens like the three-person even little kids can improv deal if they mean business

When we started this more in mind than to just of all ages who are a good who have ideas about thinking to do, then leave it at that. we can't resist taking advantage we've laid to make one mo

There's still time to save other of those things we've ought to do, and that may determined work by individuals together. Although the Heber are unanimously pro-He some doubts about how much to commit the city may decide on, they will community help if they a

In the meantime, a very zens is getting organized a plan we are excited about